

**In the Claims**

Applicant presents a complete claim set as presently pending.

1. (Currently Amended) A context management system, comprising:  
a server appliance, comprising:  
a computer system having a power supply input and a network input/output (I/O) port for coupling the server appliance to a network;  
at least one memory in which is stored a set of instructions defining a context management server which delivers context management information to client applications and a set of instructions defining a software interface for administering the context management server over the network using a general-purpose client interface, wherein the context management server is defined in accordance with a Clinical Context Object Workgroup (CCOW) standard, and wherein the context management information relates to a patient, a user and an encounter.
2. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory further stores:  
configuration information for the context management server, whereby the context management server can bootstrap without requiring user intervention.
3. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 2, wherein the at least one memory further stores:  
a set of instructions which when executed connect the server appliance to the network absent user intervention.
4. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory further stores:  
a set of instructions which when executed balance a processing load on the server appliance with a processing load on another server appliance.

5. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory further stores:
  - a set of instructions which when executed transfers a processing load from a failed server appliance to another server appliance.
6. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory further stores:
  - a Master Patient Index.
7. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory further stores:
  - a healthcare coding index.
8. (Currently Amended) A context management system, comprising:
  - a web server, accessible through a network via the HTTP protocol, the web server comprising:
    - at least one computer memory in which is stored a set of instructions defining a context manager accessible to managed applications through the network and a set of instructions defining a context vault accessible to the context manager, wherein the context manager is defined in accordance with a Clinical Context Object Workgroup (CCOW) standard, and wherein the context manager provides information to the managed applications relating to a user, a patient and an encounter.
9. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 8, wherein the context vault is accessible to the context manager through the network.
10. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 8, wherein the at least one memory further stores:
  - a Master Patient Index server.

11. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 8, wherein the at least one memory further stores:

a healthcare coding index server.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for context management over a network, comprising:  
receiving, on a server appliance, via the network, a first network message, in accordance with a network communication protocol, containing information pertaining to a context management action, wherein the server appliance comprises a context manager which is defined in accordance with a Clinical Context Objects Workgroup (CCOW) standard, and wherein the information relates to a patient, a user and an encounter;

performing, on the server appliance, an act pertaining to the context management action;  
and

sending, from the server appliance, via the network, a second network message, in accordance with the network communication protocol, containing information pertaining to the context management action.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein performing the act pertaining to context management comprises performing a processing function in ~~a~~the context manager implemented on the server appliance.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein performing the act pertaining to context management comprises performing a processing function in a context vault implemented on the server appliance.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein performing the act pertaining to context management comprises performing processing functions, in each of ~~a~~the context manager and a context vault, each of which is implemented on the server appliance.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising determining whether to use the server appliance or another, similarly-configured network appliance, based on load sharing considerations.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein receiving and sending the network messages is done using the TCP/IP protocol.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein receiving and sending the network messages is done using the HTTP protocol.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising adapting an existing server appliance for use as a context management server appliance.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein adapting the existing server appliance comprises installing context management software onto the existing server appliance.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising sending information, from a context client, to the server appliance, over the network.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising receiving information, from the server appliance, on a context client, over the network.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 12, wherein the context management action ~~pertaining to patient medical care~~ comprises an action on a master patient index (MPI).

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the context management action pertaining to patient medical care is in accordance with a healthcare industry standard.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising coupling the server appliance to a Web server, said Web server managing communication between the server appliance and other elements coupled to the network.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising running software on the Web server capable of supporting Web browser applications and an interface to client applications.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the network is any of: a wide area network, a local area network and the Internet.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising performing a coding act wherein context data is represented by corresponding numeric data.

30. (Currently Amended) A context management system, comprising:  
a server appliance comprising:

a memory holding context management software, the context management software being defined in accordance with a Clinical Context Objects Workgroup (CCOW) standard;

a network connection; and

a processor executing instructions corresponding to said context management software; and

a network, coupled to the server appliance via the network connection, said network carrying information pertaining to context management actions to and from the server appliance, the information relating to a patient, a user and an encounter.

31. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 30, wherein the server appliance is a context management server appliance implemented on an existing server appliance.

32. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 30, further comprising a load manager for distributing context management loads between a plurality of server appliances.

33. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 30, wherein the network is any of: a wide area network, a local area network and the Internet.

34. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 19, further comprising a Web server for managing communication between the server appliance and other elements coupled to the network

35. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 34, further comprising software for supporting a Web browser and a client application interface.

36. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 30, further comprising a master patient index (MPI).

37. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 30, wherein the server appliance comprises a context manager.

38. (Previously presented) The context management system of claim 30, wherein the server appliance comprises a context vault.

39. (Withdrawn) A method for context management comprising exchanging context data over a network, between a context management server coupled to the network and a plurality of applications; installed on a corresponding plurality of computers, wherein the context data comprises a data item usable by the plurality of applications, the plurality of applications comprising at least a first application and a second application, the data item having a set of values comprising at least a first value corresponding to the first application and a second value corresponding to the second application, the set of values identifying a subject in a context, and

wherein the step of exchanging context data comprises, in response to a user switching from the first application to the second application, exchanging the value of the data item corresponding to the first application with the value of the data item corresponding to the second application to retain the context.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein exchanging the context data is performed using an Internet-based communication protocol.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, further comprising representing the context data with coded values.

42. (Withdrawn) A context management system comprising:

a server having context management software stored thereon, said server communicating over a network with a plurality of applications, said plurality of applications residing on a corresponding plurality of computers, coupled to said network, and interacting with said context management software by exchanging data over said network, the data comprising a data item usable by the plurality of applications, the plurality of applications comprising at least a first application and a second application, the data item having a set of values comprising at least a first value corresponding to the first application and a second value corresponding to the second application, the set of values identifying a subject in a context, and wherein the server is configured to, in response to a user switching from the first application to the second application, exchange the value of the data item corresponding to the first application with the value of the data item corresponding to the second application to retain the context.

43. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, wherein the server further comprises Web server software.

44. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, further comprising a context vault coupled to the server.

45. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, wherein the network is the Internet.
46. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, wherein the context data comprises data pertaining to a master patient index (MPI).
47. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, wherein the context data comprises coded values.